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BDC REJOINDER SAMPLES (PRO)

"In this speech, I will defend each of my team's arguments.

"The first argument I will defend is...

PRO-01: Protecting the Environment

They said...

Increasing organic agriculture will not protect the environment

We say...

Organic agriculture does protect the environment

Because...

1. **SUMMARIZE:** (10+ sec)

"In the first speech, we told you...

If we increase organic farming, then we will protect the environment because our research proved that synthetic chemicals used by conventional farms as pesticides and fertilizers are destroying biodiversity. Organic farming does not use such chemicals and we prevent this from happening.

2. **NEW EVIDENCE:** (10-15 sec)

Also... Conventional Farming Poses Serious Risks to Biodiversity

(ex. Threats to Bees and Insect Populations)

S: *According to... Economics Help, December 3, 2019*

<https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/153913/economics/organic-farming-pros-and-cons/>

Q: It states...

Minimizes the external cost of farming. The use of artificial pesticides and fertilizers can have side effects to the local environment. For example, there are concerns about a decline in the bee population, due to the increased use of toxic pesticides. "America's agricultural landscape is now 48 times more toxic to honeybees, and likely other insects, than it was 25 years ago, almost entirely due to widespread use of so-called neonicotinoid pesticides" (6 Aug, 2019, Nat. Geographic). Bees are vital to the well-being of the planet's ecosystem. Organic farming helps bees and insects by not using pesticides and providing more pollen from land which isn't kept as monoculture. The neo toxins currently used can stay in the environment for 1,000 days and are proving very damaging to insect population.

This means... increasing organic agriculture will reduce the threat to entire ecosystems protecting not only the billions of organisms, but millions of people as well.

3. **SPECIFIC COMEBACKS:** (20-30 sec)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will protect the environment!



"Bringing Debate to the Bluegrass!"

"The next argument I will defend is..."

PRO-02: Improving People's Health

They said...

Increasing organic agriculture will not improve people's health

We say...

Organic agriculture does improve our health

Because...

1. **SUMMARIZE:** (10+ sec)

"In the first speech, we told you..."

If we increase organic farming, then we will make people healthier because our research proved that synthetic chemicals used by conventional farms as pesticides and fertilizers are poisoning our food and the soil. Organic farming does not use such chemicals. So... millions of people would be healthier from eating more nutritious food.

2. **NEW EVIDENCE:** (10-15 sec)

Also... Organic Food is High in Nutrition

S: According to... Conserve Energy Future, Last Accessed: April 2022

<https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/pros-and-cons-organic-farming.php>

Q: It states...

High nutrition values: Organic food products contain very high nutritional content because they do not contain modified ingredients compared to the conventional agricultural food products. Another factor that makes them highly nutrition is that they are given time to develop and are provided with the best natural conditions for growth. The vitamin and mineral content of organic food products is always high as the soil life and health offers the most suitable mechanism for crops to access soil nutrients. Plus, healthy foodstuff simply means healthy people and better nourishment for a better living for both people and animals.

This means... that it was incorrect for our opponents to say that organic farming is not healthier because this evidence shows that better soil and better conditions leads to better nutrients and better health.

3. **SPECIFIC COMEBACKS:** (20-30 sec)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will improve people's health

"So, for all these reasons, please continue to support the PRO side."



"Bringing Debate to the Bluegrass!"

"The next argument I will defend is..."

PRO-03: Increasing Food Security

They said...

Increasing organic agriculture will not increase food security

We say...

Organic agriculture does improve food security

Because...

1. **SUMMARIZE:** (10+ sec)

"In the first speech, we told you..."

If we increase organic farming, then we will increase food security because the synthetic chemicals used by conventional farms as pesticides and fertilizers are destroying the soil and water systems and threatening future food production. Yet, organic farming does not use such chemicals – so we prevent this from happening.

2. **NEW EVIDENCE:** (10-15 sec)

Also... Organic Farming Can Feed the World

S: According to... Rodale Institute, May 14, 2019

<https://rodaleinstitute.org/blog/can-organic-feed-the-world/>

The truth is that yes, organic can feed the world! Organic can compete with conventional yields and outperform conventional in adverse weather. Small farmers using organic methods have huge potential to expand global food production. And only organic methods actively regenerate resources and protect the environment from pollution and toxic waste. For a healthy future, we can't afford anything less.

This means... that it was incorrect for our opponents to say that organic farming will not be sufficient to feed the world, because organic food production can produce plenty of food and at times can even outperform regular farming.

3. **SPECIFIC COMEBACKS:** (20-30 sec)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will improve people's health

"So, for all these reasons, please continue to support the PRO side."



"Bringing Debate to the Bluegrass!"

"The next argument I will defend is..."

PRO-04: Protecting Farm Animals

They said...

Increasing organic agriculture will not protect farm animals

We say...

Organic agriculture does protect farm animals from abuse

Because...

1. **SUMMARIZE:** (10+ sec)

"In the first speech, we told you..."

Animal welfare laws don't protect certain animals from being mistreated because these laws don't apply to farm animals. However, organic farming has very specific rules to protect animals from overcrowding and other abuses.

2. **NEW EVIDENCE:** (10-15 sec)

Also... Conventional Farming Generally Harmful to Animals

S: According to... *The Humane League, January 5, 2021*

<https://thehumaneleague.org/article/factory-farming-animal-cruelty>

Q: *It states...*

HOW DOES FACTORY FARMING AFFECT ANIMALS?: On factory farms, animals are subjected to routine mutilations, extreme confinement, and are otherwise manipulated to benefit human consumers. These practices are generally harmful to the animals. Below are a few ways that factory farming affects animals.

This means... increasing organic agriculture will result in fewer animals being abused and mistreated by the factory farms.

3. **SPECIFIC COMEBACKS:** (20-30 sec)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will protect farm animals from being abused.

"So, for all these reasons, please continue to support the PRO side."



"Bringing Debate to the Bluegrass!"

BDC Rejoinders Sample (v. 2.0)
Topic: Increasing Organic Agriculture
<https://bluegrassdebate.org/> [Pg.6]

BDC REJOINDER SAMPLES (CON)

"In this speech, I will defend each of my team's arguments.

"The first argument I will defend is...

CON-01: Lacking Effectiveness

They said...

Increasing organic agriculture will be effective

We say...

Organic agriculture will not be effective

Because...

1. **SUMMARIZE:** (10+ sec)

"In the first speech, we told you...

If we increase organic farming, then it will not work effectively because the industry lacks proper regulation and is being mismanaged. So... large agriculture businesses can get around many of the rules and do what they have always done.

2. **NEW EVIDENCE:** (10-15 sec)

Also... Lack of Proper Regulation

S: According to... Columbia Climate School, Columbia University, October 22, 2019

<https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2019/10/22/organic-food-better-environment/>

Q: It states...

Making matters more complicated, some experts worry that the term "organic food" is not always properly regulated. As more large corporations get involved in organic markets, researchers claim that this shift to the mainstream has "led to the weakening of ecologically beneficial standards". It may also limit organic farming's ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This means... increasing organic agriculture will not be effective due to the influence that large agriculture businesses have over the entire industry. They also influence the lawmakers who make the rules.

3. **SPECIFIC COMEBACKS:** (20-30 sec)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will not be effective!



"The next argument I will defend is...

CON-02: Global Hunger

They said...

Increasing organic agriculture will not worsen global hunger

We say...

Organic agriculture will make global hunger worse

Because...

1. SUMMARIZE: (10+ sec)

"In the first speech, we told you..."

Global hunger is rising due to as much as 98% increase in demand for food, yet organic farming produces significantly less food compared to conventional farming. So... over time we would not have enough food to feed the entire world.

2. NEW EVIDENCE: (10-15 sec)

Also... Agriculture Yields Reduced by 40%

S: According to... Columbia Climate School, Columbia University, October 22, 2019

<https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2019/10/22/organic-food-better-environment/>

Q: It states...

Some scientists continue to be concerned that with limited land areas that will be available for farming, it might not be sustainable for industrialized countries to go 100 percent organic. A recent study published in the journal Nature Communications concludes that the widespread adoption of organic farming practices in England and Wales would lead to increases in greenhouse gas emissions. This is mainly because agricultural yields would be 40 percent lower.

This means... with significantly lower food production, millions or even billions of people would suffer from the lack of food available to eat. This would also cause the price of food to significantly rise making the world hunger problem even worse.

3. SPECIFIC COMEBACKS: (20-30 sec)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will worsen the global hunger problem!

"So, for all these reasons, please continue to support the CON side."



"Bringing Debate to the Bluegrass!"

"The next argument I will defend is..."

CON-03: Making Poverty Worse

They said...

Increasing organic agriculture will not make the poverty situation worse

We say...

Organic agriculture will make poverty worse

Because...

1. **SUMMARIZE:** (10+ sec)

"In the first speech, we told you..."

Organic food is incredibly expensive and that families living near or in poverty conditions will not be able to afford a switch to organic foods. The more organic food created means less conventional food, which would increase the price of all food.

2. **NEW EVIDENCE:** (10-15 sec)

Also... Organic Food Prices Are Too High

S: According to... Prof. Robert Paarlberg, Harvard University, Harvard Gazette, February 2, 2021

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/02/author-robert-paarlberg-argues-against-buying-organic/>

Q: He states...

Consumers pay considerably more for organic. In 2018, the Food Marketing Institute reported that the average retail price (by volume) for organic produce was 54 percent higher than for conventional produce. One USDA study showed that organic salad mix cost 60 percent more than conventional; organic milk 72 percent more; and organic eggs 82 percent more. Organic corn and soybeans sell for twice as much as conventional. These are high premiums, but not high enough to move most farmers toward organic, because the farming costs required by organic methods can be higher still.

This means... increasing organic agriculture will significantly increase the cost of food, making it less and less affordable for the families who are already struggling to be able to afford it.

3. **SPECIFIC COMEBACKS:** (20-30 sec)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will make poverty much worse than it already is!

"So, for all these reasons, please continue to support the CON side."



"The next argument I will defend is...

CON-04: Harming Local Farmers

They said...

Increasing organic agriculture will not make things worse for local farmers

We say...

Organic agriculture will make local farming even harder

Because...

1. SUMMARIZE: (10+ sec)

"In the first speech, we told you..."

Switching to organic is very costly and most local farmers cannot afford to make the switch and for those who do try, they are facing bankruptcy. So... many organic farmers will either go bankrupt or be forced to go back to regular farming.

2. NEW EVIDENCE: (10-15 sec)

CON: Significantly Higher Labor Costs

S: According to... Prof. Robert Paarlberg, Harvard University, Harvard Gazette, February 2, 2021

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/02/author-robert-paarlberg-argues-against-buying-organic/>

Q: He states...

Farmers tend to hold back because producing food organically requires more human labor to handle the composted animal manure used for fertilizer, as well as more labor to control weeds without chemicals (sometimes putting down nonbiodegradable plastic mulch instead). It also requires more land for every bushel of production, further driving up costs. Trying to grow all of our food organically today would require farming a much wider area, damaging wildlife habitat. Rachel Carson, the founder of our modern environmental movement, never endorsed organic farming. Her 1962 book "Silent Spring" condemned synthetic insecticides like DDT, but Carson saw no reason to ban manufactured fertilizers, a requirement under the organic standard.

This means... increasing organic agriculture will make the cost of farming higher and will threaten to reduce the profits for local farmers resulting in higher costs for both farmers and consumers as well.

3. SPECIFIC COMEBACKS: (20-30 sec)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will harm local farming!

"So, for all these reasons, please continue to support the CON side."